

Routes to tour in Germany

The Nibelungen Route



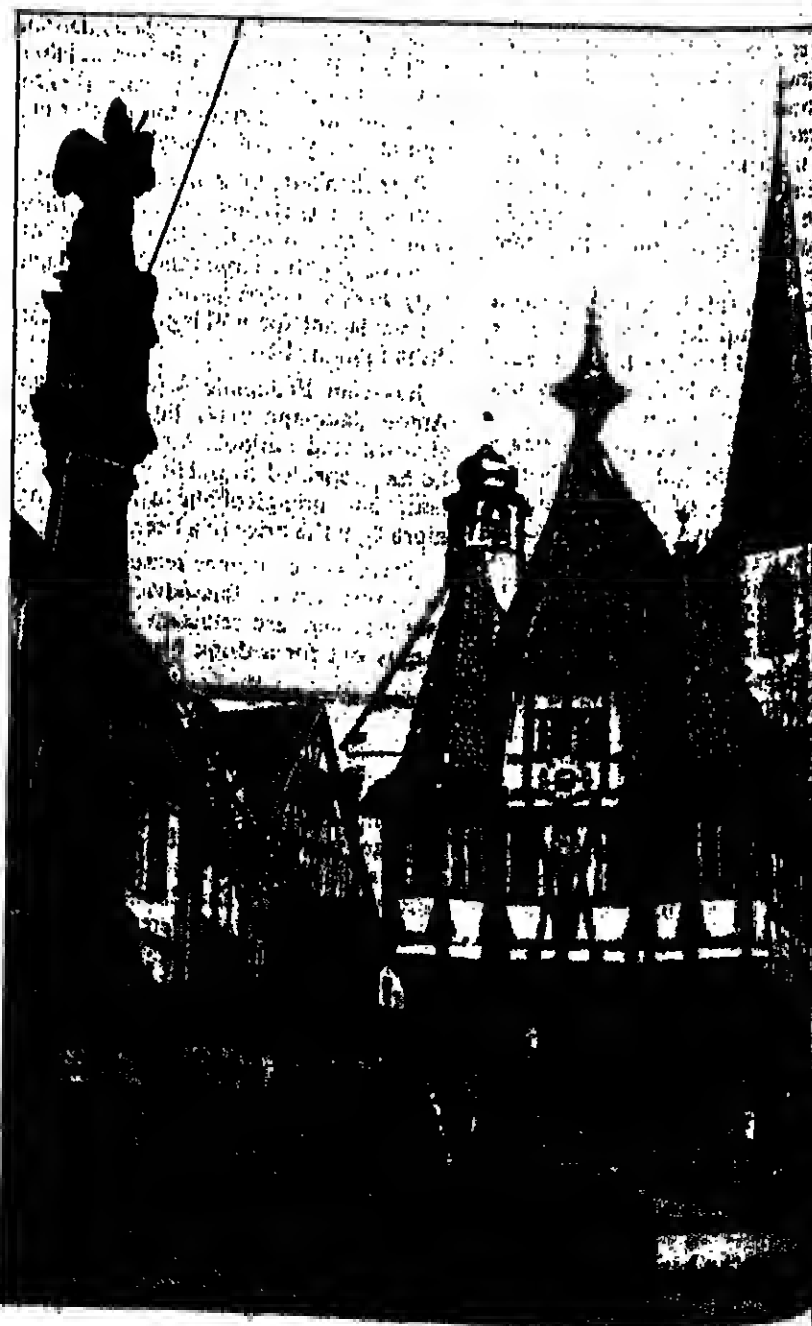
German roads will get you there — to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the mediaeval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gale and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there, going hunting in the Odenwald.

With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered Rathaus. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

Visit Germany and let the Nibelungen Route be your guide.

- 1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
- 2 Miltenberg
- 3 Odenwald
- 4 Michelstadt
- 5 Wertheim

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Kohl works out an agenda for EEC summit

Chancellor Kohl has worked out his agenda for the EEC summit in Stuttgart next month. He wants to make way on the issues of:

- 1. Unemployment among young people
- 2. EEC membership for Spain and Portugal
- 3. Common agricultural policy
- 4. Guards for the common market
- 5. Community finance
- 6. Britain's financial contributions

There is also another issue that the Chancellor personally wants to raise: Britain and the tree-death epidemic.

It is a king-sized agenda that extends the scope of which only experts can be in view of the general lack of interest in European affairs.

Despite preliminary activity might be expected in Bonn, yet seems to be no systematic coordination of differing views in the Bonn circles concerned.

The various departments are already trying to blame each other in case the summit doesn't live up to expectations.

The Finance Ministry the overriding consideration is extra burdens on the budget, which are to be avoided at all cost.

The Foreign Office officials are keenly aware of the possible repercussions of an imminent collapse of the European Community.

They are thus more readily disposed to not allowing the sole political accomplishment worth mentioning in Europe to come a cropper for technical reasons.

As being so, there are growing fears that the Stuttgart summit might prove a failure. The president of the EEC Commission, M. Thorn of Luxembourg, expects a serious crisis unless something is done about Spanish membership and community finances at least.

Spain's membership bid, which Bonn has endorsed, has brought to a head the differences between individual member-countries.

Spain is stalling on further expansion of the EEC; it would first like to see the Mediterranean (arm) produce, which is unable to compete with the better protected by the Common Agricultural Policy.

Italy and Greece, but the cost cannot be met by the EEC's budget. Besides, Spain and Portugal as new members will be expensive.

Spain, which has been fobbed off with a straight line,

and it cannot be retained as a partner in Nato yet rejected as a partner in the European Community.

A decision on Community finances will likewise have repercussions: to refuse to pay more toward the cost of the EEC is in effect to say no to Spanish membership.

The European Community has become an annoying issue. The expense, the incomprehensible and costly agricultural policy and the lack of any stimuli that mean something to the man in the street have led to a decline in interest in the EEC even in Germany.

This detracts from the true value of the Community to the Federal Republic, for which it is of major importance both economically and politically.

The new Bonn government must make up its mind on policy toward Europe. It cannot be left to individual Ministers to pursue their respective interests heedless of an overall policy concept.

There were inconsistencies in this respect under Chancellor Schmidt. They cannot be allowed to continue.

When the concessions we invariably end up making are made too late they earn us neither recognition nor counter-concessions.

The Chancellor ought to aim at a more streamlined agenda in Stuttgart and he should issue stricter instructions on how to prepare for the summit.

A European debate would be a poor start for the new Kohl government.

Kohl must have had a foretaste of his talks in London with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of what lies in store for him at the Stuttgart EEC summit.

Although there was no lack of goodwill between him and Mrs Thatcher and they were agreed on many issues, views differed on what needed doing in the European Community.

Bonn's plans for a solemn declaration to set the seal on closer cooperation between Common Market countries encountered opposition in Whitehall.

What mainly interests Mrs Thatcher is clarification on Britain's 1983 contribution to the EEC kitty in Brussels.

She has been promised a rebate and is determined to get one in what may be a long and difficult process.

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Picture of contentment: Helmut Kohl and Amintore Fanfani in Rome. (Photo: dpa)

Chancellor has talks in Rome — with the usual results

Römer Stadt-Anzeiger

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl seems to bring bad luck to Italian governments. He has brought down two in two visits.

Just after he made his first official visit to Italy last year, the coalition of Republican leader Giovanni Spadolini fell. Talks Herr Kohl was to have had were cancelled.

Now the government of Christian Democrat Amintore Fanfani has fallen, just a matter of hours after Herr Kohl ended a visit.

Signor Fanfani has resignation and elections are to be held at the end of June.

Relations between Bonn and Rome are excellent.

There has been no change despite the hue and cry over the whereabouts of 41 missing drums of toxic waste from Seveso in northern Italy.

Both governments do not, of course, agree on every issue. Herr Kohl was reminded of the annual tussle over the EEC farm price review by farmers with

placards proclaiming, in German: "German milk? No thanks!"

But this dispute was ignored by both heads of government and left to their respective agriculture ministers, while no public mention was made of the missing drums of toxic waste; they may not have been mentioned at all.

The two leaders, men so different in age, height and prowess at public speaking, were all the more emphatic in their references to common viewpoints.

Both were keen to see the solemn declaration on European Union signed at the Stuttgart EEC summit, partly because their Foreign Ministers, Herr Genscher and Signor Colombo, were jointly responsible for the draft.

But they harbour no illusions and are well aware there is still spirited resistance to the principle of majority decisions within the EEC and to any upgrading of the European Assembly.

Even the toxic waste debate produced a spig-off of common ground, as it happened, with both governments saying how keen they were on better legislation to cover this topic within the European Community.

Bonn and Rome have similar views on the Geneva disarmament talks. Their declarations differ only in tenor.

Herr Kohl missed no opportunity of reaffirming Bonn's determination to abide by both parts of the Nato missile modernisation resolution.

Signor Fanfani nodded approval and blithely praised the attitude of Italy's Western partners, which was "entirely in keeping with the expectations of public opinion."

This turn of phrase was entirely in keeping with the attitude taken by Foreign Minister Colombo, which is much

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■ WORLD AFFAIRS

East Bloc leaders learn to come to terms with their new boss

From Erich Honecker to Janos Kadar the men in power in Eastern Europe all made it to the top during the 18-year Brezhnev era.

Most owe their careers to him and had arrived at a working relationship with him through many meetings, including regular summer summits in the Crimea.

The East Bloc leaders have so far had little opportunity of getting to know Mr Andropov better. Until May 1982 the new Soviet leader was head of the KGB and as such not a very public figure.

The GDR's Erich Honecker is the first East Bloc leader to visit Moscow since the change of power in the Kremlin.

Just as Helmut Kohl in Washington sought to demonstrate German-American friendship, so Herr Honecker will have wanted to stress the special relationship between East Berlin and Moscow.

Just as the Federal Republic is Washington's major ally, so the GDR is Moscow's. Germany is a strategic point in East-West affairs.

When Herr Honecker and Mr Brezhnev last conferred in detail at the beginning of 1982, Mr Brezhnev was already only occasionally capable of communicating with others.

The crucial passage in their joint communiqué was:

"The development of the international situation will depend in many respects on new relations between European states with different social systems evolve. Detente was born in Europe and Europe may yet give it a new and powerful boost."

The icy cold of ties with Washington, the deep problems in relations with France and above all the change of government in Bonn have brought about a change in the situation from Moscow's point of view.

The consequence of this change ought to be a closing of ranks on the East Bloc's part, isolated as it has become.

A key factor in the Soviet assessment of the situation is the *Ostpolitik* pursued by the Kohl government, which is directly linked with intra-German ties.

In the Crimea Mr Brezhnev and Herr Honecker called on Bonn to reaffirm and expand the policy of peaceful cooperation.

From the Soviet and GDR viewpoint the extent to which the Bonn government keeps out of the cold of ties between the superpowers is of crucial importance.

Will Bonn be either able or willing to maintain its special relationship with Moscow and East Berlin regardless of ideological disputes and its enticement commitments in Washington?

Under Chancellor Schmidt there was a perceptible trend towards purging company with America, but this can hardly be expected to continue now power has changed hands in Bonn no matter how keen Chancellor Kohl may be on continuity.

The GDR is extremely interested in maintaining profitable relations with Bonn, which would be hard hit if tension between the superpowers were to have repercussions on intra-German ties.

The advantages East Berlin enjoys from intra-German trade, which is not run on a hard-currency basis, are increasingly important for a GDR perennially short of foreign exchange.

The Soviet leaders do not seem to be interested in a deterioration of relations with Bonn at present.

The harbour hopes that the Kohl government will, like its predecessors, pursue an *Ostpolitik* in keeping with German interests that differs at least slightly from that of its Western allies.

This means, for instance, the trade restrictions on which Washington continues to be keen. It also means missile modernisation and human rights in the East Bloc (the CSCE conference).

So Bonn was bound to be reminded, on the occasion of Herr Honecker's visit to Moscow, of the need for detente policy and for the continuation of a predictable *Ostpolitik*.

The reminder was bound to be coupl-

Submarines in the Baltic: no limit to Soviet military arrogance

The Swedish protest in Moscow against constant violations of Swedish territorial waters by Soviet submarines — and the lying Soviet reaction to the protest — cannot be taken seriously enough in Europe.

If the outraged commentary issued by the Soviet news agency Tass is to be believed, the report by the Swedish parliamentary commission of inquiry lacks all foundation.

It has "evidently been initiated by Swedish military and other circles intent on harming relations between the two countries and on stepping up Swedish arms expenditure."

This juxtaposition of a warmongering Sweden and a peace-loving Soviet Union is so absurd that one would need to believe in flying saucers to take it at face value.

How else can one possibly reconcile Soviet denials and Swedish observation of espionage activity by foreign submarines that "are not members of Nato"?

The sound of submerged submarine engines and radio messages in Russian leave no doubt as to the origins of the subs.

Besides, one needs only to recall the case of the Soviet submarine that was

stranded near the Swedish naval base at Karlskrona in autumn 1981.

There is only one interpretation to the attitude taken by the Soviet Union in the so-called Baltic sea of peace: there are no more limits to the arrogance and claims to power of the Soviet military.

Why should Swedish neutrality be respected more than that of non-aligned Afghanistan? No Swede needs to be told what to expect of the Soviet Union in wartime when Swedish waters are used for Soviet naval exercises in peacetime.

So the threat of overwhelming military might, which is the only pressure the ideologically and politically bankrupt Soviet Union has left to exert, is levelled not just at Scandinavia but at Europe as a whole.

To make the point clear Moscow makes no bones about either its naval or its nuclear arms build-ups in Europe.

But the Kremlin has more than once misjudged the mentality of other peoples, not just in Afghanistan. This shameless military pressure could mobilise powers of resistance Moscow does not imagine exist either in Sweden or in peace-loving Western Europe.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 28 April 1983)

Talks in Rome

Continued from page 1

more consistent than might be expected given such frequent changes of government in Rome.

In principle Italy has agreed to provide the United States with facilities for stationing missiles at a disused airfield near Comiso in Sicily, but it would much prefer the Geneva talks to make this unnecessary.

The two countries' opponents of missile policies have much less in common. In Germany the peace movement is preparing for the great debate; in Italy it is still largely insignificant.

In Comiso, a small provincial town, the Mafia is said to have bought many plots of land on which to build modern housing and commercial facilities for the Americans.

Vague hopes of earning a little more money on the side offset many people's fears that the East might undertake a pre-emptive strike to knock out their missiles.

Only two Italian bishops have so far come out strictly against missiles. Surprisingly, President Pertini has joined them at the European Assembly in Strasbourg, where he called for the scrapping of all nuclear weapons.

Horst Schiller

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 April 1983)

EEC summit

Continued from page 1

well be a general election year in Britain.

At the March meeting of EEC leaders in Brussels he optimistically announced that all major disputes would be resolved at the next summit in Stuttgart.

No-one will doubt the Chancellor's goodwill and commitment to European integration, but more complex issues are here of stake.

They have lately been interlinked and make up an ominous tangle within the European Community.

Heinz Stadmann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 27 April 1983)

HOME AFFAIRS

Checkpoint deaths revive some old foreign policy chestnuts

ed with polemics against militarisation and encouragement that aim to put paid to the situation.

For Bonn, where Chancellor Kohl due to visit Moscow in Herr Honecker's wake, the situation holds no secrets.

Should Bonn not do as Mr Kohl urges and Herr Kohl show signs of detente continuing consideration for the USSR and relations with Washington, could be reconsolidated, could be up to the mark.

On the other hand any government must think twice before embarking on in the 1970s and jeopardising progress in the half-way between East and West.

The Germans are in a position that sets bounds to the leeway.

(Mannheimer Morgen)

Thousands to the streets of Poland

Protest against General Jaruzelski the Polish leader, who had been more effective than May Day.

At the official demonstration in Warsaw, the situation in Poland was normal, while in Warsaw and cities tens of thousands of people took to the streets in support of the Solidarity trade union.

The day on which Communist governments are given to hold mass marches to demonstrate solidarity with the people of Poland how isolated, and undemocratic the regime is.

Party officials, the benches and small of the Communist were a pathetic band left themselves.

The Solidarity banners were, in contrast, by families in day best straight from church demonstrators were neither provocateurs.

The resistance maintained and this display of discipline was what evidently threw the ties into panic in many places.

Militiamen laid into even the groups of people, which barely what General Jaruzelski had.

The Poles demonstrated that the situation in their country yet back to normal. The police and well.

The political situation still hopeless, but hope still prevails dictatorship to do with such a

(Hannoversche Allgemeine)

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regarded them as evidence of wrong assumptions by the makers of the policies.

The FDP/FDP government tended to shy away from the need to face up to unpleasant realities and defend the very principles upon which the *Ostpolitik* was based.

But, there were enough people in both political camps willing to view matters rationally.

Even though they may well have fought against the negative aspects in the application of the various agreements and were not willing to simply deny their existence, they did not fail to acknowledge the positive ones.

The growing number of such persons gave rise to the assumption that the change of government in Bonn would not have an immediate effect on the *Ostpolitik*.

It was assumed that the handling of such policies would be all the more cautious in the face of the growing shakiness of the international political foundations upon which such policies were once based.

The death of West German transit traveller Rudolf Burkert during questioning by East German border guards appears to have raised many questions on the domestic political front. It is a serious case. But initially there was no danger that it would not be treated as seriously as appropriate.

People living in Berlin are aware of the atmosphere surrounding the "circumstances" of transit traffic. They will find it easy to conjure up an image of the "circumstances" surrounding Burkert's death.

After having been informed of the individual details of the case, Chancellor Kohl decided to intervene at the highest political level in East Germany, making clear two things.

One: West German government, or party to the transit agreement drawn up in Berlin with the GDR, is entitled to make certain demands on its partner, at least to demand an explanation.

Second: the extent to which the GDR complies to such a desire can become a politically relevant factor to the government of the Federal Republic.

Whether as a result of this personal intervention by Chancellor Kohl or of the specific circumstances of the case li-

acif, the East Germans have also made it clear that they cannot deny the gravity of the case.

This is not only confirmed by the large number of public statements issued by the GDR but also by the way this case is being treated in the joint transit commission and by the fact that a West German forensic doctor has been allowed to enter East Germany to investigate the case and its circumstances.

There is general recognition of the political relevance of the incident by the GDR. This is a fact, even if we must wait for a final assessment of the case.

This is undoubtedly a success on the part of the West German government, which made use of given possibilities at various levels without anticipating conclusive judgement of the case.

However, it will now have to face up to difficulties at home and the problems will centre around the very instruments used by the Federal government to obtain this success.

The head of the CSU, Franz Josef Strauss, acted quickly. He grasped the opportunity to launch an attack on Chancellor Kohl.

East Berlin's border guards and the heart-attack syndrome

Two West German citizens within two weeks have had heart attacks following "detailed questioning" by East German border guards.

It would not be right to disregard the deaths in the interest of keeping the peace simply because this kind of thing happens elsewhere too.

It would also, however, be mistaken to treat the incidents as highly criminal acts in terms of international law as part of a "political change". This is favoured by Franz Josef Strauss without even being familiar with the exact circumstances of the cases.

Of course, we all know that no traveller enters into the lion's den of Eastern European border control without a pounding heart.

Indeed, it is claimed that even West German police have overstepped the mark in some cases and the harsh Prussian tone of voice heard from certain

In his opinion, the incident revealed the inadequacy of promises made by the Chancellor on the continuity of the *Deutschland- und Ostpolitik*. Indeed it showed the thoughtlessness of such statements.

These two policy areas must be dealt with in a completely different manner to the approach during the Brandt/Schmidt and Schmidt/Genscher governments.

It is not difficult to see what is happening. Strauss is the Prime Minister of Bavaria. After the election, he would have like to have returned to Bonn in a Cabinet post.

But this didn't happen. Now he would like some sort of compensation. He would like to see a stronger CSU influence in Bonn in various fields including *Ostpolitik*.

Suddenly, the wide area of tension within the coalition, covered up during the speediness of the coalition negotiations, has re-emerged: the FDP at the one end, the CSU at the other, and Chancellor Kohl and his CDU in the middle.

This Chancellor of the government coalition must, therefore, face up to a test even before he delivers his statement of government policy in the Bundestag.

He must make sure that he keeps a tight grip on political leadership and does not allow his political style to be changed.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 24 April 1983)

officials in the Federal Republic is almost regarded as good form.

However, it is not officially known whether this has also led to heart attacks.

Of course, it is not our intention to trivialise activities against ordinary citizens by foreign authorities, whether in Washington or in Warsaw.

After all, our criticism is not only levelled against the Wall, the barbed wire and the automatic exploding devices on the border, but also against the authoritarian methods of government and arrogant behaviour existing in neighbouring countries.

We may well now and again find ourselves over-reacting.

But in view of what has happened over the past 30 years, something ought to be done.

It is time that those who think of themselves as socialists and feel that they are the sole advocates of human rights began to think and act in a more humane and social way.

It is clear that the East German border officials do not carry out their unpleasant duty the way they do merely because this meets their own personal preference.

They get strict orders. The resultant behaviour can endanger lives. It is correct for the West German government to repeatedly complain, and demand detailed explanations.

After all, good relations is no excuse for a lax reaction. A country's first duty is to protect its citizens. Political considerations are inappropriate here.

On the other hand, we should not turn a molehill into a mountain for political gain at home.

Otherwise, we may find other countries arguing that we are still the vicious challengers we once were in the past.

Karl Ackermann

(Mannheimer Morgen, 28 April 1983)

Honecker stays at home: it's much more comfortable that way

German Communist party leader and head of state Erich Honecker was turned down an invitation to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The reason given is an aggressive one with the motto: attack is the best of defences.

His visit has been made impossible by the current state of relations between the two German states.

The fact that the two West German citizens who died within a few days of another at GDR crossing-points was the real reason for the "current" of relations is deliberately ignored.

Indeed, in an act of exoneration,

GDR television almost presented such deaths of West German citizens as normal occurrences.

The GDR television programme, Aktuelle Kamera pointed out that last year 240 such deaths were recorded among transit travellers and visitors to the GDR.

What is more, 200,000 people die of a sudden heart attack in the Federal Republic each year.

(The GDR TV reporters could have added cynically, without having been "questioned" by East German border guards).

GDR leaders are doing their utmost to avert the damage done to the image of their state by the deaths in the offices of their border guards.

Volfrath von Heinze

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 April 1983)

DEFENCE

European MPs seek ways of reducing international arms trade

A group of Euro-MPs is trying to draw up a code with the aim of working out a way of reducing the arms trade with the Third World.

The group includes members of various political hues like British Conservative Adam Ferguson and German Social Democrat Hald Wiczorek-Zeul. Their motives are not the same. Idealists like Frau Wiczorek-Zeul, also known as Rüd Haldi, probably want the West to cut its sales, although it is the USA and the Soviet Union who are by far the biggest suppliers.

She and some others also want the development of a common EEC security policy.

Another aim is to try and change the views of anti-EEC Euro-MPs. These include Danes, British Labour members, and Greek and French Communists.

They form a group which regards the EEC as a common market at best but not a political union. They are all against the madness of the arms sales.

Frau Wiczorek-Zeul says in a report to the political committee of the European parliament that MPs in Paris and London are given either incomplete or no reports on arms exports.

She says that the Bonn government is required to keep at least two Bonn MPs informed on arms shipments.

She also says that the French Defence Minister, Charles Hernu, demanded that the procedure be changed. But the Paris government continues with the old practice.

The EEC governments have had plenty of experience with arms shipments to the Third World.

While the Schmidt-Genscher government in Bonn was doing its usual searching as to whether to sell German Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia and decided against it due to opposition from Israel and from their own parties at home, Britain's Margaret Thatcher was tearing Arab countries and offering the British Challenger tank.

In 1981, the government in The Hague risked a massive diplomatic clash with Peking and went ahead to supply Taiwan with three submarines that would secure 1,200 jobs at home.

Food for thought

The suppliers of arms are in good international company. In fact, even the Swedish moralists were upset when a deal involving Viggen fighter planes for India fell through. And it took massive pressure from his party to make Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky abandon plans to supply the Argentinian dictatorship with Kárássier tanks made by the Steyr-Daimler-Puch works.

The Falklands conflict should have provided food for thought. While the British armada was on the way south, French Mirage and Super Etendard jets, acting on Mitterrand's orders, flew mock attacks to prepare the British seamen for the type of enemy aircraft that would attack them in the South Atlantic.

But the effects of the French Exocet missiles could only be judged through experience. They were so successful in Argentinian attacks on the British fleet



The German Leopard II tank... an issue revived (see story below).

(Photo: Sven Simon)

that many are now being bought by poor countries.

A major argument put forward by the Euro-MPs in favour of common EEC guidelines for arms exports is that arms cooperation between Community governments has of necessity become increasingly close.

This is partly due to the need to standardise Nato weaponry and partly to the hope of thus cutting down on production costs. Another reason is the expectation the standardised European weapons systems could be used to persuade America to accept better deals. As a result, more and more European

weapons systems are being developed and produced jointly.

Among the examples are the British-German-Italian Tornado fighter plane, the German-French Alphajet, the German-French defence system against low altitude aircraft, Roland (which the USA was on the brink of buying), Belgian-French-Dutch minesweepers, German-Dutch frigates and the German-British-Italian 70mm field howitzer.

Such multilateral weapons development programmes will be expanded still further in the 1990s.

The Tornado was the first weapon

It is doubtful if Chancellor Helmut Kohl is grateful to fellow party member and foreign affairs expert Werner Marx for having revived the debate on German arms exports.

The subject was considered over and over again when the previous government under Helmut Schmidt passed its new guidelines on arms exports last spring.

Marx wants the guidelines to be relaxed. He has thus revived the issue of German Leopard tank shipments to Saudi Arabia.

There have also been other murmurings: a foreign policy paper involved in coalition negotiations mentioned a new attitude towards arms exports that would take financial and security considerations into account.

The CDU and the CSU have different ideas on what the paper means. Then there had been some talk of promoting arms exports by providing export insurance cover through the government-owned Hermes Corporation — something that is now done in exceptional cases only.

But SPD manager Peter Giotz and the foreign affairs spokesman of the FDP, parliamentary group, Helmut Schäfer, criticised this. Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff (FDP) favoured it, Heiner Geissler, when he was CDU general secretary, last year came out against any relaxation.

This makes it obvious that views on the issue go across party lines.

Move to change guidelines covering weapons exports

The new guidelines that were drafted last year, prompted by the Saudi Arabian wish to buy German tanks, were hammered out between SPD and FDP. The proceedings were closely watched by the public.

Helmut Schmidt and the FDP leader, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, both of whom originally favoured giving the green light to the deal with Saudi Arabia, later changed their minds in the face of tough resistance.

Schmidt, who frequently described the guidelines as "rubber regulations," interpreted them at the time as ruling out the sale of tanks to Saudi Arabia.

The major elements of the guidelines included provisions approving the supply of arms to Nato and similar countries, while restricting shipments elsewhere.

Among the exceptions listed that might have applied to the Saudi Arabian deal were: vital foreign and security policy interests of Germany and consideration of the interests of the alliance.

If discussion over this issue persists, it could create problems for Kohl. It could mean a new clash between the

where the three governments agreed that exports to non-Nato countries would have to be approved in consensus.

The field howitzer was due to the same three nations. In 1981, the British decided to export the Saudi Arabia; Germany supplying officially but of necessity the German firms Leitz and tall to provide components for half the total order.

What troubles the Euro-MPs is question as to how to agree between the ten Community governments should curb arms exports.

The Conservative Ferguson, in his report to the European Parliament, said that the foreign trade committee should naturally be allowed to decide on the export of countries enjoying a similar situation should be prepared.

These other countries include India, New Zealand and Japan, neutrals Sweden, Austria and land. Ferguson leaves it open whether the committee should be asked to decide on the export of countries enjoying a similar situation should be prepared.

Recent French arms shipments — Nicaragua show how it will be for "left" and "right" to agree.

In her report Frau Wiczorek tries to counter arguments that exports could create political influence and safeguard jobs.

The report also presents the situation: 81.7 per cent of arms exports go to the Third World. The figure for France is 76.3 per cent, for Italy 76.6 and for the Federal Republic of Germany only 37.6 per cent.

It is not doubtful whether the European Parliament will succeed in forcing the other EEC nations to accept Germany's example.

The Bonn coalition of CDU and FDP could welcome a decision to that effect since it relieves its own arms export restrictions.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 May 1983)

THE HITLER DIARIES

Scepticism increases: many questions remain to be answered

Europe continues over the claims by Hamburg magazine *Stern* that it has unearthed such material, it calls for a slightly more detailed acquaintance with the state of research into the subject before sweeping claims can be made. To discuss the claim is that there must in part, on the strength of the documents newly discovered, be a complete rewrite of the history of the Hitler era.

There are strong reasons to say that the Hitler diaries are authentic. One of them is that there are so many. Surely a forger would have limited himself to a few pages only, because each extra entry heightens the risk of error to a detail. The findings of the three graphologists support the claim. So does the fact that the diaries and the additional marks made by Hitler on what are said to be hundreds of pages to give the OK for the printers.

Yet substantial doubts remain, initial of a psychological nature in connection with what we know about Hitler's personality.

Anyone who has dealt with him in detail will have noticed time and again that he must have had a pathological inclination to conceal himself, his feelings and what motivated him. No other figure in accessible history has been known to convert such a wide range of anxiety into such powerful means of stylisation.

He more than once said a statesman might never commit himself to writing, especially on personal matters, and incidentally, next to no letters written in his own hand have survived.

It was also worth noting that years ago, when it was first rumoured that Hitler kept detailed diaries, Albert Speer, who held the idea was out of the ques-

tion, said: "If I had known that Hitler kept diaries, I would have written them myself." This all being so, it is surprising that Hitler is now said to have kept up the diary until only weeks before his death, a time when the end was inevitable and the risk of his diaries falling into unauthorised hands grew greater each day.

These doubts are reinforced by the fact that from the second half of the Hitler suffered increasingly from a physical tremble that must have made it extremely difficult for him to write. In addition, a convincing explanation has yet been given for the lacuna between the recovery of the diaries and their discovery by *Stern* reporter Gerd Genscher.

But two days later he admitted they might not be.

If they were forgeries, he is reported as having said, then the forgery had succeeded in carrying out an extremely difficult operation.

Stern still believes the diaries are genuine, it said on German TV.

In the final days of the war, Lord Dacre began studying the final weeks and months of the Führer. He compiled a report for Whitehall. It was commissioned by the British intelligence services and formed the basis of his book *Hitler's Last Days*.

Stern says the diaries consist of A 4 size notebooks consisting of between 60 and 100 pages. They were tied in cord and embellished with the eagle and swastika emblems.

Hitler made his entries in black ink and signed most pages. He is said to have kept the diaries from 22 June 1932 to mid-April 1945.

There were also two separate notebooks about Rudolf Hess's flight to Britain and the bid to assassinate Hitler, on 20 July 1944.

The diaries and other material were to have been flown from Berlin to Ailing Airfield, near Salzburg, in April 1945.

Yet even this point does not come as such a surprise as it has been made out to be. Besides, most historians have always exercised suitable restraint on the issue.

The most surprising aspect, and little short of hilarious for those in the know, about the diaries is the dramatic background to their "discovery."

The *Stern* reporter is said to have been put on the scent of the diaries by a telephone call after months of research in the Federal Republic, the GDR, Spain and South America.

I was also rung several years ago and offered material that clearly hailed from the same source. It took me neither extensive travel all over the world nor talks with SS generals and close associates of Hitler's to get a look at some of the documents.

They included the notes that substantiated Hitler's knowledge of Hess's mission to England.

My conclusion at the time was that while a not inconsiderable part of the material carried conviction, the doubts prevailed.

At about that time Stuttgart historian Eberhard Jäckel was shown a volume of Hitler's alleged diaries. His initial scepticism was heightened by a handwritten poem entitled *Der Kamerad Hitler* was purported to have penned in 1916.

It was to have been published in a collection of documents that has since appeared but promptly turned out to be identical with a poem by Herybert Menzel dated 1936.

As Menzel was born in 1906, Hitler

could neither have copied it nor have written it himself.

Jäckel's misgivings were strengthened by a covering note an NSDAP head office notepaper confirming that the poem was written by Hitler. This note must have been a forgery too.

Class scrutiny revealed that a number of other documents from this particular source were extremely doubtful, to say the least, and there could be no ruling out the possibility that at least part of it had been written after the event.

This, incidentally, accounts for the opinion the Stuttgart historian ventured to give without having personally seen the diaries, as *Stern* editor-in-chief Peter Koch scathingly commented.

Jäckel had longstanding personal experience of this particular source and did not feel it to be strong on credibility.

Publication delayed

Scepticism about the diaries' authenticity has gained ground. The *Sunday Times*, which planned to publish extracts in Britain at roughly the same time as *Stern* serialised the diaries in Germany, has announced its intention of postponing publication to allow time for clarification.

Stern would do well to take Oxford historian Alan Bullock's advice, and submit its material to an international commission of experts for scrutiny.

They would soon find out, by formal analysis and by comparison with other material, whether misgivings were justified. In the meantime the greatest conceivable restraint ought to be exercised.

Joachim Fest

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 April 1983)

'Stern' sticks by its claim despite the doubts



But the plane, a Junkers 352 flown by Major Friedrich Gundlfiger, did not get there. For decades it was missing without trace.

Stern says investigation has revealed that Gundlfiger crashed in the early hours of 21 April 1945 in a wood near Bömersdorf, which is now in the GDR.

Stern reporters are said to have seen his grave there. They had spent three years trying to find what had become of the material that was on board the aircraft.

Their quest had taken them to Austria and the two German states, Switzerland, Spain and South America.

Graphologists of international repute had confirmed the authenticity of the handwriting.

Werner Maser, the historian and Hitler specialist, categorically denies the existence of any such diaries. He bases his conviction on unpublished diaries he has of Hitler's officials and of Martin Bormann.

Since January 1943, Professor Maser says, Hitler could not write with pen and ink because of his neurotic tremor. From then on he only used lead or coloured pencils.

Asked on German TV whether he felt the diaries might be forged, Professor Maser said there was a workshop in Potsdam, in the GDR, where Hitler portraits, letters and notes were forged to earn hard currency.

David Irving, the British historian, also feels the diaries cannot be genuine. Last November he says he was given 800 pages of photostats of similar material and reached the conclusion that it was suspect.

German historians Helmut Kraushaar and Eberhard Jäckel are also sceptical. Kraushaar says there has yet to be the slightest indication that Hitler ever kept a diary.

Hitler's Luftwaffe adjutant, Nicolaus von Below, has told *Bild am Sonntag* it was out of the question Hitler could have kept a diary.

"We often sat together until three or four in the morning," he said, "before Hitler went to bed. He was left with no time in which to write anything. It is all a pack of lies."

Live Behnken

(Die Welt, 29 April 1983)

TRADE

That gas deal with the Soviets: predicting consumption is Europe's problem

American concern for Europe is touching: they don't want Europe, Germany in particular, from becoming too dependent on the Soviet Union for natural gas.

So the Reagan Administration fought against the West European gas-for-pipes deal with the Russians and introduced an embargo.

The pretext: Western Europe's energy supply would become vulnerable if it too much of its energy were imported from the Soviet Union.

What really worried the Americans was that the gas deal would provide the Soviets with the foreign exchange they need to finance their arms build-up and, above all, buy Western know-how.

But now the Washington administration has come to terms with the gas deal. It might even be indulging in a bit of Schadenfreude.

The American press has for some time been speculating whether the Europeans have not bitten off more than they can chew.

The fact is that when the negotiations began, Europe's gas buyers based their estimates on forecasts of energy needs that now seem greatly exaggerated. And buying too much gas at excessive prices could become a costly business.

But the companies actually involved in the deal are unperturbed. Ruhrgas AG chairman Klaus Liesen said a year ago that he was surprised that others should be worried on his behalf: "We're constantly asked by worried people whether we haven't bought too much. But we ourselves are quite happy with our buying policy."

But he does not deny that when the talks began his company operated on different assumptions.

A Ruhrgas paper in February 1981 said about the deal with Russia: "The German natural gas industry anticipates selling the equivalent of an annual 85 million tons of coal by the end of the 1980s."

But this is illusory today. Latest forecasts by Ruhrgas itself speak of 60 to 70 million tons of coal equivalent. And other forecasts are similar.

This amount of gas has already been contracted for. And if the German gas companies make full use of their contracts with suppliers in the Netherlands and Norway and their previous contracts with the Soviet Union they can obtain the annual equivalent of 65 million tons of coal equivalent.

But this figure is already 20 per cent higher than the 54.5 million tons of coal equivalent sold to Germany last year.

At first glance it would therefore appear that the 10.5 billion cubic metres (about 13 million tons in terms of anthracite units) that have been contracted for with Moscow are redundant.

With declining sales in the past couple of years, the second alternative has already been successfully practised.

But purchases from Norway cannot be pared down for the same reason that applies to Russia: heavy investment.

This does not apply to the Netherlands or to German producers. In fact, neither the Dutch nor the German producers are particularly interested in selling their gas supplies as quickly as possible.

Their attitude is prompted by the need to safeguard the energy supplies on the one hand and, on the other, speculation that energy prices will go. Falling energy prices in the past few months in no way change this assessment.

Technically, it is easier for the Dutch than for the Germans to cut down on production. Most of the Dutch gas comes from a single field near Groningen and production there can easily be regulated. This is somewhat more difficult in Germany but even here there are no insurmountable obstacles.

It should therefore be possible to buy additional gas from the Soviet Union even if energy consumption does not rise at the anticipated rate.

Gas is advancing inexorably in both

the construction of a 5,000-kilometre pipeline from Siberia's Yamal Peninsula to Western Europe.

Though Ruhrgas says that this latest deal is more flexible than the previous three, there is nevertheless little scope for price fluctuations.

If the German buyers want to take delivery rather than just pay, they must either increase their sales to get rid of the surplus gas or they must cut down on purchases from other suppliers.

By the same token, this danger that gas will be unable to compete with oil if oil prices continue to rise and the gas business will with the quantities of gas it can offer.

Here, too, the industry is brushed aside misgivings by pointing to flexible price clauses in the contracts. In the past, these clauses have benefited the consumer. When prices went up, gas prices also went up, though somewhat later.

Both the Russians and the Dutch have deals with their countries whereby the price adaptation mechanisms were changed in the event when the oil price rose more than anticipated.

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industry and private homes post warm winter and the have prevented gas consumption rising.

It was therefore of little use to the companies providing gas to the number of gas-heated homes by 300,000 to close to six million average gas consumption actually down.

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BUSINESS

AEG-Telefunken 100 years old but no one's lighting the candles

AEG-Telefunken was 100 years old last month. But nobody was in a hurry to celebrate.

The two electrical giants have drifted apart, but nevertheless a certain kinship remains.

Werner Siemens, who founded the company that still has his name, also played a major role in the founding and the first cautious steps of his main competitor.

He assured Emil Rathenau that his company would not produce light bulbs by the method developed by Edison; and he agreed to provide Rathenau with all the machinery and equipment needed to make the bulbs. Only thus was Rathenau able to raise the five million marks to found DEG.

AEG was to have many subsequent connections with Siemens. For example acting under considerable political and military pressure — they combined their radio telegraphy workshops and founded Telefunken GmbH.

They also cooperated in other fields. One result was the establishment in 1919 of Osram GmbH.

But disputes led to repeated separations. During World War I, the companies decided to arrive at a final arrangement. Siemens let Telefunken become a wholly owned AEG subsidiary while AEG relinquished all financial interest in Siemens. In 1975, AEG transferred its Osram stock to Siemens.

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today, Siemens, has frequently played an important role in AEG.

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The AEG-Siemens cooperation: In the power station field was also rather ill-starred. AEG withdrew in 1976, selling its stock in their joint subsidiary, Kraftwerkunion, to Siemens at a loss estimated at DM1.7bn. In its 100-year history, AEG has developed into one of the world's major companies in its field. But its history has also been marked by a series of setbacks and rescues. Apart from the capital consolidations necessitated by the two world wars, 1936 also saw a 3:1 capital reduction from 185 million to 61.7 million reichsmarks.

The company, which at that time was already operating on a global scale, was drawn into the vortex of the Depression.

The company weathered this phase (which was rather similar to the past few years), coming out relatively unscathed — primarily because the banks, urged by the government, did not press for the repayment of loans.

AEG has played a major role in the development of electrical engineering. It was one of its engineers who in 1890 developed alternating current; and, since the early 1920s, the company's research and development departments have concentrated on radio, film and, later, television.

The first AEG radios came on the market in 1922; and at the 5th German Radio Show in Berlin in the late 1920s, AEG demonstrated the first television transmission.

At the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, the first electronic television camera was used for direct transmission.

The end of World War II found AEG in a worse position than any other major German electrical company because 90 per cent of AEG's factories were in today's East Germany or East Berlin.

The company was almost down to zero when its management opted for a sweeping reconstruction in all major fields of electrical engineering.

By 1958, when AEG celebrated its 75th anniversary, the company was a universal enterprise in this branch of industry.

Its 24 factories produced just about everything electrical engineering can produce: household appliances, small radio valves, major plant and equipment. The decline began only a few years later. In 1961, with the company's first management crisis.

Ever since, what has become known in the trade as the "chief executive ma-

lapse" has been plaguing the company, giving rise to constant rumours.

Frequent changes on the management board have led to wrong policies. The board made the mistake of orientating itself too much by the management of Siemens.

In its race to catch up with Siemens, AEG entered into many a premature commitment.

The disastrous ambition to overtake Siemens made the AEG executives put sales before profits.

It was during this time of rivalry with Siemens that AEG took over such major home appliance companies as Zanker, Neff and Küppersbusch, paying for the equities with borrowed money.

During the high interest phase, the company was virtually suffocated by its DM5bn debt. All efforts to outperform Siemens and become the nation's number one failed.

The present chief executive, Heinz Dürr — unwittingly, it wasn't his fault — did, however, achieve a record with the nation's largest insolvency proceedings.

Telefunken became part of AEG in 1967.

After resuming operations in 1945, the company pioneered technical development in its field. It was instrumental in developing the Pal colour TV system and the video-disco (together with the British Decca) which hit the market as far back as 1975, far ahead of the competition.

But even the Pal system was unable to prevent AEG-Telefunken from operating at a loss; and the video-disco proved a commercial flop. The cream in this field — if there is any cream — is now being skimmed off by others.

The rapid decline and near demise of the company, together with frantic rescue attempts, took place in full public view.



Goddess of Light... AEG-Telefunken's trade mark.

(Photo: AEG-Telefunken)

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(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19 April 1983)

The lessons behind varying prices at the petrol pump

A telling example is hoarding. When heating oil consumers believe that prices are about to rise, they stock up. This makes prices go up.

The more tangible conditions on the oil market have, also, changed. The quantities available on the Rotterdam spot market have evidently declined in the past few weeks. At the same time, the trade has begun restocking.

The start of the holiday season with its extra car traffic has provided the oil companies with a good opportunity to raise petrol prices.

Even so, it would be wrong to assume — not only for psychological reasons — that the period of declining or at least stable prices is over.

There could be

Clues about today revealed as Warsaw gathering looks back 40 years



The Warsaw conference on Nazi crimes in Poland was not one-sided; nor was it used politically, despite whatever propaganda aims there might have been.

This is the opinion of experts who went to the conference, held to mark the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. Papers were read and debates held as an introduction to the anniversary agenda.

It was a four-day gathering addressed by historians and lawyers, journalists, together with people from the era.

Jewish visitors came from around the world.

Two days after the conference ended, Jewish visitors marched past the ghetto memorial to the railway sidings from which trains left for Auschwitz and the gas chambers.

The Warsaw ghetto uprising, a despairing struggle that lasted four weeks, began on 19 April 1943.

To the precise, there were two conferences in Warsaw. The first two days were sponsored by the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Jewish Historical Institute.

They were organised by Professor Madajczak, who arguably took scientific accuracy more seriously than Professor Pillechowski, the head of the Institute for Research into Nazi Crime in Poland, who hosted the second part of the conference.

But Professor Pillechowski deserves

credit for having transformed the gathering into a meeting of 300 people interested in a common topic many of whom will have met for the first time, having previously only read each other's work.

His institute is attached to the Polish Ministry of Justice, so it is a government body, but in Poland official interpretations, if such they are, are not applied too slavishly.

Besides, the host, in keeping with his Polish colleagues, was much too interested in the subject to make the conference a mere propaganda show for the government.

The list of speakers was not even arranged to enable the proverbial clue of thread to be made out.

The proceedings were a succession of dry overviews on scientific work, detailed descriptions based on source material and straightforward outlines of personal experiences.

Above all, so much that is worth knowing about the history of the Jews in Poland was said and printed that Polish propaganda can hardly afford ever to disregard it.

Coverage was partly marked by an uneasy conscience. In the past the Jewish uprising of spring 1943 has almost been dealt with as part of the August 1944 Polish Warsaw uprising.

Anti-Semitism was not only in evidence in the late-1970s; it has also reared its head occasionally in Polish daily newspapers since the imposition of martial law in December 1981.

But before the ceremonies to mark the ghetto uprising anniversary got under way, at the end of March, a Polish leader who used to be noted for

his anti-Semitic views, General Moczar, stepped down as head of the Polish Ex-Servicemen's Association, Zbowied, which was one of the anniversary's hosts.

Polish delegates at the conference, especially journalists for newspapers that gave it generous coverage, went to endless lengths to emphasise Polish aid to the Jewish resistance in particular.

Others hoped to stress that resistance came in largely because of the lack of assistance from the West, including the Polish government-in-exile in London.

But this version of events failed to make headway at the conference. It only gained a foothold in semi-official coverage.

It nonetheless led to the sole major scientific controversy, which arose when a Jewish expert disputed this view, producing figures in support of his claim that Polish backing was limited to individual activities, especially by the Church.

The home army of bourgeois Poland did indeed lend less assistance than the communist-orientated so-called People's Army. But even this fact is true only in relative terms.

The Reds were a small group of partisans who in relation to their limited strength undeniably lent the Jewish resistance clear backing.

No mention was made at the conference of tragic attacks by other Poles on defenceless Jews on the run in Poland. This topic was taboo. It was also not strictly relevant to the event in connection with which the conference was held.

There were more West Germans at the conference than any other national

group apart, of course, from the hosts. They mainly came with a firmly resolved not to let the bogus celebration.

At the same time they were asked to make West German contributions to the subject clear and to contacts with other specialists, from the GDR.

Given that frank speaking is not a virtue after the official ban, at least in principle, on how the cost of the fast breeder and temperature reactor projects in Germany and Schmehausen.

The unexpected official shown toward Jewish history came as a surprise to visitors, to the Jews themselves.

Could it be that another recent Polish history has been gone after for impartial research how long will it be before the apparent in Polish school textbooks, that the projects had in reality at least DM3bn short of funds, that was not even taking follow-up data account?

As now, we are told that abandoning the projects would be much more expensive than carrying on, while an argument that is the brainchild of the present Minister, Christian Demme, Heinz Riesenhuber.

In 1977 a previous incumbent, Hans Dörner of the SPD, presented an impressive set of figures to prove the same point so far, even for Herr von der Leyen, abandoning the reactor projects would have cost less than going ahead with them.

It was that good-neighbourly relations with the Federal Republic were hardly conceivable as revanchist and revisionist ground there.

They were likewise unlikely long as Nazi criminals still sit free in West Germany. There is no argument, he a statute of limitations for Nazi crimes.

For the Bonn government, it will be no answer for investing hundreds of millions of marks in such prestige projects (extra hundreds of millions, after year) at a time when swinge-

ENERGY

Huge cost of fast-breeder reactors an issue that stays on the boil

ing cuts in welfare spending are imminent.

This year extra investment subsidies totalling DM572m are to be ploughed into Kalkar and DM300m into Schmehausen. Can there be any political justification?

The fast breeder has been under development for 30 years. No-one will deny that for the next few decades, certainly for the foreseeable future, it is superfluous.

There once were fears that the world's uranium reserves would soon be exhausted, but not any more. There are reserves in plenty, and uranium will long be less expensive as a nuclear fuel than plutonium.

Plutonium is what the fast breeder is designed to breed a surplus of, but it is both expensive and an extremely difficult substance to handle.

The Bonn Research Ministry fields an argument, and an argument seriously meant, in favour of carrying on with the project that there can be no ruling out the possibility that uranium suppliers might one day make political demands.

We would then be dependent on them, it is argued, and not without some justification. But this dependence could only be eliminated by building breeder reactors all over the country — or dispensing with nuclear power entirely, of course!

The strongest argument in favour of the high-temperature reactor is that it might one day prove possible to generate process heat at such high temperatures that it could be harnessed for coal liquefaction or gasification.

But at the time of writing no-one can say whether, should the opportunity ever arise, it would make economic or ecological sense to do so.

If the fast breeder were scrapped the Karlsruhe nuclear research centre would no longer have much to do. If

Outlook for the year 2030 shows a limit to the options

By the year 2030 an estimated 8,000 million people are expected to need ten times the energy currently available.

There aren't many options open to us at this demand.

Resources must be harnessed if they are to be ensured.

This was the outlook forecast at the Hamburg energy congress by Wolf Häfeler, board chairman of the Jülich nuclear research centre.

But this state of affairs could soon change, especially where pollution was concerned.

Electric power had proved fine with fork-lift trucks. Herr Cordes also referred to experiments with battery-powered buses.

Energy research must bear in mind its special political and social responsibilities in paving the way for energy utilisation, experts from both East and West told the congress.

The scientific part of its proceedings was sponsored by the International Free Academy of New Cosmology.

First it was environmental considera-

centres in the United States were at a loose end too.

There was nothing much left for them to do after developing the atomic and hydrogen bombs, while in the defence sector the emphasis was on disarmament.

The Ministry argues that if work on the German prototypes in Kalkar and Schmehausen were to be abandoned there would be a worldwide response.

International opinion would interpret the decision not as a realisation that there was no feasible alternative but as a failure to come to terms with modern complex technology.

It is always difficult in the extreme to call a halt to undesirable developments, especially when prestige is at stake.

There will always be calls to complete the project regardless of the cost and despite bitter past experience. The Rhine-Main-Deutsche Canal is an example.

Yet abandoning pointless projects could be regarded as a step in the right direction, especially in the Third World, which is busy repeating so many of the industrialised countries' mistakes (with every assistance from the industrialised world, incidentally).

It is not just a matter of who is to foot the bill for the extra cost of completing a couple of construction projects in North Rhine-Westphalia. There will also be follow-up costs, operational losses and waste disposal problems.

So we may confidently look forward to the next "final statement of accounts" in connection with the two reactor projects.

Martin Urban

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 April 1983)

Sun not yet shining on solar power: much more to be done

Solar energy is not yet a viable alternative to oil, gas and coal. Solar cells can so far only complement conventional power supplies.

The Bonn Research Ministry has invested DM150m in solar energy research, but serious problems remain.

Solar power suffered a serious setback last year when Brown, Boveri & Cie, of Mannheim, decided to stop making solar collectors.

Many felt that meant solar energy could be written off as not being economically enough.

AEG, of Frankfurt, a company that could well have done without the adverse publicity it got last year, chose to invest in solar power, but cells, not collectors.

Grant-aided by the EEC, AEG are this year due to build the largest solar power station in Europe on Pellworm, an island in the North Sea.

The station will convert sunlight directly into electric power that will supply the island's spa centre.

AEG embarked in 1977 on a development programme to manufacture inexpensive solar cells and are investing DM107m in a bid to cut the cost per unit of installed capacity.

In 1977 a watt of solar power cost DM100; by 1985 it is to cost a mere DM5. The programme is grant-aided by the Bonn Research Ministry.

Solar cells have an environmental advantage that has been known since the mid-1950s when they were first used to power space satellites.

Vorwärts

Scarcer supplies of fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal have now made solar energy a more interesting prospect at less exalted altitudes.

What is more, solar cells use a raw material, silicon, that is available in virtually unlimited quantities.

High manufacturing costs are still a problem, however, which is why Volker Cordes, head of new technology and space research at AEG, feels their uses will be strictly limited for the time being.

Solar cells, he says, can at present do no more than complement power supplies.

They are intended for use in communications technology, in isolated homes and on remote farms and with signal equipment and buoys.

But Herr Cordes feels solar energy has a much more promising future elsewhere. It could play a major role in supplying energy to Third World countries where sunshine is a virtually unlimited commodity.

Other solar cell manufacturers are similarly reluctant about the uses to which their products can be put.

Klaus-Ulrich Helten, head of the solar engineering department at Cologne Technical College, foresees major

Continued on page 10

A Nazi date likely to boost German anniversary industry

Anschluss of Austria and of Sudeten Germany.

It could prove to be one Nazi anniversary after another, with everything being resurrected: from pacts to the dates on which the various powers entered the war.

There will be no shortage of battle anniversaries either, not to mention the Nazi generals' campaigns and defeats.

The resurrection of these horrors is likely to mark the end of horror itself and the feeling of how undecipherable the horrors were that the Nazis wrote in the annals of history.

We lack a concept by which to draw a distinction between a Nazi anniversary and a normal one.

The men in charge of the media also seem to have lost all sense of proportion for a meaningful and educational treatment of fascism.

Generations are growing up that no longer have personal memories of the Nazi era and are unable to recall at first hand the physical and mental terror that was its hallmark.

This lack of historic context is clearly the floodgate through which fascination with the Nazis is bidding for its come-

back in the minds of many young people.

They are youngsters who have grown receptive to heroic sentiments and the so-called elementary factor that is lacking in a progressively more rational world.

Affluence and unemployment, not to mention their counterparts boredom and lack of inner purpose, are evidently sending many people back from the present to a seemingly more meaningful and fulfilled past.

The Nazi era is seen as having been exciting. It is fast assuming the proportions of an ersatz world like the Wild West or the evening's crime ration on TV.

Feelings of aggression, unsatisfied by the present, can bank in adventure and titanic trials of strength that may one day come home to roost.

They are already reflected in official records. Right-wing extremism is on the increase.

Given the alarming growth rate of aggression in society, and given the fears that emanate from so many sources, must be allow ourselves to be tyrannised by the calendar?

Where does it say that we are under

any obligation to do so? The Nazis helped our country, which, in contradictions, has successfully built a working democracy, to a fresh understanding of itself.

Is this painful historic reality that is likely to pursue the German people as a whole and each and every individual German well into the next century destined to descend to the "B" movies for late-night TV consumption?

Is it to be up to a dubious industry intent only on box-office success to perform the role that ought to be the work of historians, school and media investigation?

The experts' role is difficult, usually only reach people who are ready conversant with the facts, leaves it to the media and the school to maintain the ongoing process of education to mind the past.

But the educators must not lose sense of proportion and make sure that should be a deterrent to further investigation.

TV and school, each in its own way, are already shirking their role. Baden-Württemberg Education Minister, for instance, is busy scrapping lessons in which light might be shed on the origins of German militarism.

TV is daily producing a picture that cannot really be produced in any other way. Both are playing with fire.

Wolfgang

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 15 April 1983)

The 50th anniversary of the Nazi take-over could mark the beginning of a succession of anniversaries extending from 1983 to 1995.

The Federal Republic of Germany, and possibly Austria, could be inundated in commemorative speeches, books, programmes and articles for the next 12 years.

The 50th anniversary of the end of the Third Reich, a 1,000-year Reich that ended with half the world in ruins, will not be until 1995.

The first few months of 1983 have been bad enough. The Germans have always had a predilection for reviewing world affairs at anniversary intervals (but infrequently in between).

They do so somewhat thoughtlessly, but make up for their lack of thought with pedantry and thoroughness. It now looks like becoming a flourishing business.

There is a serious risk of the upshot being an eager-beaver, at times hypocritical, process of enlightenment that might at best portray the Nazi era as the stuff of horror and at worst apologise for it as having been a pardonable lapse in German history.

A leading magazine has already recalled the anniversary of the first road-works on what was to be Hitler's network of autobahns.

The anniversaries to follow seem a foregone conclusion: the Röhm putsch and the sacking of the synagogues, the

April 20 1933

■ AGRICULTURE

Inspid Granny Smith succeeds tasty old Graf von Luxemburg

Jürgen Dahl, 54, a Krefeld journalist, is trying to save old varieties of apple from extinction. He says modern varieties just don't taste as good.

In the Garden of Eden the apple may have tasted fine, but latter-day Adams and Eves are often easily disappointed.

"Most varieties in the market taste of nothing," Herr Dahl says. He and two friends have been engaged in their rescue bid for two years.

He published an appeal in gardening and nature magazines for readers to send him shoots from old varieties for grafting.

The response was magnificent. Samples were sent through the post from all over the country and grafted on to young trees last year in a Krefeld greenhouse.

Dahl recently planted 125 of these trees on a plot of land he owns near Klee in the Rhineland.

In many cases the senders supplied references to go with their shoots, such as: "this is the tastiest apple I have ever eaten" or "this is from my grandmother's gardener's favourite tree."

The names of the varieties will be sure to ring a bell among German readers who remember the apples of their youth. They include Charlamowsky, Rheinscher Bohnapfel, Winterrambour, Danziger Kantapfel, Zuccalmaglio, Trierer Welpapfel, Berner Rosenapfel, Kaiser Wilhelm, Graf von Luxemburg, Schafnase, Sternrenette, Grafensteiner und Weisser Wintercalvill.

Shape, size and appearance are as varied as their names. The apples come

round and oval, smooth and rough-skinned, yellow and green, striped and red, and firm, juicy and soft in consistency.

Their taste range varies, as outlined by J. C. L. Wredow in an 1853 gardening manual published in Berlin, from sour and unseed-like to strawberryish and spicy.

Weisser Wintercalvill and Grafensteiner are viewed in Germany as the best varieties. The Wintercalvill is a big, tall apple with five "ribs" and a greenish-yellow skin.

Its flesh is said to be whitish-yellow in colour and soft and juicy in consistency and taste.

The Grafensteiner is famed for its aroma. Its skin is basically yellow, with red stripes and speckles. It is silky and shiny, its taste calls to mind wine and pineapple.

It is an incomparable delicacy, as Rector Hinterthür put it in an old Brunswick manual on apples. But it is one that is evidently no longer in demand.

Gravensteiners, says Jakob Linden of the Horticultural Association in Bonn, don't sell. Wholesalers decide what sells and what doesn't, leaving consumers with very little choice.

The trade also decides what varieties are planted, and in Germany today every other tree in the orchard is a Cox's Orange Pippin.

The main fruit-growing areas are the Ahrland, near Hamburg, the Lake Constance region and the Vorgebirge,

near Bonn, with 12,000, 9,000 and 5,000 hectares of orchard respectively. Next in order of commercial popularity is the Red Boskop, which accounts for 15 per cent of trees, followed by the James Grieve and a Rhineland variety, the Red Berlepsch, with 10 and nine per cent respectively. Sales of apple varieties from the area near Bonn are fairly typical of the market all over Germany.

Last year, according to CMA, the agricultural marketing board, the Golden Delicious accounted for 28 per cent of the market, followed by the Pippin, with 24 per cent.

Then came the Boskop, with 15, the Jonathan, with nine, and the Granny Smith, with four per cent. So three varieties made up over two thirds of the total.

Otherwise, apart from regional varieties such as the Ingrid Marie down south and the James Grieve in North Rhine-Westphalia, none gets a look-in.

It is, as Renate Havlik of BUND, the Nature Conservation Association, puts it, a boring minimum.

Yet in the 19th century, and the 18th too, there were any number of varieties. 878 different kinds of apple were listed and described in a three-volume manual published in Jena between 1839 and 1841.

Identification and classification techniques may have been less reliable in those days, so perhaps this number was exaggerated.

But there can be no doubt at all that from then on the number of varieties steadily and constantly declined.

A 1928 reference work lists about 100 varieties of apple still grown in Germany.

In the 1980 edition of Robert Silberstein's manual (Silberstein is a lecturer at Hohenheim University, Stuttgart) a mere 30 or so market apples are listed,



The ideal apple, for some, is shaped like a hand.

together with a handful of minor varieties and half a dozen apples.

He is scathing in his criticism of the Golden Delicious as sweet and of the Granny Smith as tart, and yet he notes that both are tremendously well.

Smell and taste are thus not less than a firm skin, but also and good looks even in storage.

Growers are under constant and they have to plant the varieties to ensure that they sell.

Quality goes by the board. Distinction gains the upper hand among the growers' claim that the would soonest have apples like tennis balls, up from the ground.

In the course of the season sprayed with over a dozen pesticides and pesticides to the losses are kept to a minimum.

The resulting apple looks healthy, and looks are extremely important. Polls have shown that 70 per cent of customers are attracted by appearance.

Fifty-six per cent decide on the strength of the price. No more of taste and smell.

Horst Seibert

(Köln: Stadt-Anzeiger, 11 April 1983)

■ ARCHAEOLOGY

Diggers give 2000-year history to Bonn



In 40 BC the Roman general Drusus had the camp built on a plateau above high-water level. It was surrounded by earthenworks and stockades and was one of 50 such fortifications along the Rhine.

To the west protection was provided by a marshy river, the Gumme, while to the east the ground sloped steeply 15 metres down to the banks of the Rhine.

To the north there was the Rhenish plain, and Germanic tribes, could be seen with the naked eye as they came in to attack from the mouth of the River Sieg.

The Annals of Tacitus relate that in 69 AD the Batavians, a Germanic tribe, destroyed the Roman wood-and-earth camp, leaving the moats full of corpses.

Archaeologists excavated the camp, which is almost square (528 by 524 metres), some years ago, surveying it and reconstructing it on paper.

In his *Amerika — Die Neue oder die Alte Welt?* (America: New World or Old?) Tübingen ethnologist Werner Müller casts doubts on the assumption that the Indians crossed the Bering Strait to America during the Ice Age.

Europe, he plausibly argues, may well have been settled from America. For one, the cultural geography of the Eurasian landmass lends little support to the conventional assumption.

Siberia separates civilisations in the northern hemisphere. The Stone Age pottery of the New World, for instance, is found not in Siberia but in Eastern Europe.

The tale is much the same when it comes to the megaliths, the petroglyphs, the architecture and much more. Siberia invariably separates America and Europe.

Müller's trump card is the affinity between New World and Old World, particularly Old European, cultures. The New World supplies details with which many readers will be familiar from the European angle but which come as something new in the American version.

It is amazing how assuredly he succeeds in showing much 19th century research to have lacked credibility. He turns the tables, arguing that Stone Age Europe was influenced by North America.

If his line of argument were to gain general support the conventional world view taken by archaeologists would be turned upside-down.

The sudden appearance of pointed blades in the Aurignacian culture, the Eskimo-like way of life in the Hamburg tunnel valley outlined by Alfred Rüst and the emergence of the Canadian reindeer in north-western Europe (rather than its Siberian counterpart) all indicate closer links than the 10,000 kilometres across Siberia.

In anthropological terms Müller relies on the work of US specialist C. S. Coon, who stresses that the oldest finds of skulls and skeletons of the ancestors of today's European have been in the north-west corner of the continent.

handful of light red potsherds dating back to 11 BC were until two weeks ago being looked after at the Rheinisches Landesmuseum in Bonn. They were the oldest find on the site of the Roman camp and, until March, the proof that in 1989 the German capital will be 2,000 years old.

The museum has them by the way. They are bright red, which identifies them as Terra Sigillata pottery, made in Southern Gaul between 20 BC and 30 AD.

Over the Alpine campaigns Roman brought pots of this kind with them to the Rhine in 13 and 12 BC. The pots made on what used to be the site of the city's Schauspielhaus. The site is now being developed. By 1984 it will house and underground car park and high-class residential buildings.

Archaeologists and history students in Bonn with shovels and picks in February expected to excavate the walls, then sod well of a Capuchin monastery dating back to 1640.

But they also found two cellars four metres deep that were not on the plans.

The cellars contained large quantities of Western pottery, modern, farm-pottery, china and optical glass. They presumably have been left behind by the monks when they were abolished in 1803.

Alongside the monastery well there was a cess pit filled with peat. In it the side of excavations, Michael Gechter, and splinters of glass, eggshell, and shell of a walnut.

With the well and the cess pit side by side we need hardly be surprised at the speed with which the Plague spread," he says.

A disappointment

This surprise was followed by a disappointment. The soil beneath the moat walls revealed no trace of the 1st-century Roman period, about which little is known.

Underneath the monastery garden ground sloped down to the Rhine. It contained the first Roman struts: the remains of a Roman villa that had been built.

They included the remains of underground heating and of four stoves in what must have been a large house. So the Bonn archaeologists found it may well have been an inn for the Roman Rhine fleet.

Oyster and mussel shells and the remains of a pig prove yet again that the Romans were fine trenchermen.

A few metres to one side of the kitchen there seems to have been a Roman smelting plant, indicated by remains of large pots, large amounts of charcoal and lumps of grass iron ore.

Iron ore comes from the Aachen area and is given the name because it was there immediately underneath the grass.

Where there is a smelting shop there is to be a smithy, but the diggers found no unburnt traces of one, so the fancy the pig iron was processed at a nearby army camp.

The camp, which must have housed about 9,000 Roman legionaries, was in the north of the present city centre, not far from the autobahn bridge over the Rhine.

It was linked by a grid road with the Roman settlement, which extended from the Schauspielhaus to the Bundesparlament building, in today's Bonn.

Theory threatens to turn old ideas on their heads

The Americans have presented ethnologists with problems for some time. They include possible transatlantic links and the increasing frequency of "European" finds along the eastern seaboard.

Brazilian newspapers recently reported a find of old amphoras by divers near Rio. They were spread over an area equivalent to that of two tennis courts, that they seem unlikely to have been planted.

Their shape is said to be reminiscent of the second century BC. This find could prove more specific than either Phoenician inscriptions in the Amazon or megalithic monuments in New England or runics in Minnesota.

Aerial photographs of the "Old" World reveal the scars of wartime bombing in many places. We are reminded how dreadful these old wounds were.

In an age of progress Europe and America have now come very close together, but one of the points we have in common is worry. Nowadays it takes only minutes for one continent to wipe out the other.

Müller, who was born in Emmerich, near Düsseldorf, in 1907, is a very versatile writer. He will be seen in his *Neue Sonne — Neues Licht*, a collection of 15 essays on the history, culture and language of North American Indians.

They deal with such varied topics as Indian poetry, including a number of samples such as the unforgettable Wild Rose song of Dakota, and Rastke's erroneous assumptions on the effect of the football in history.

Müller stresses the phantom-like character of urban civilisation and refers to Ernst Jünger's views on the subject.

Now that the oldest potsherds have been identified in the civilian settlement and not in the legionaries' camp, Roman Bonn can be said to have started there and not as a military outpost.

The centre of civilian Bonn seems to have been roughly where the market square is today.

The current excavations have also shown that the early Roman settlement was abandoned in about 50 AD and the garrison moved to the camp.

In the years after this removal there was a steady increase in the number of attacks by Germanic tribes from the other side of the Rhine.

In 355 AD the Franks sacked both the legionaries' camp and the civilian settlement. Four years later the Emperor Julian had the camp rebuilt and enclosed by a stone wall.

Early in April the archaeologists unearthed the Roman village street at a depth of five metres, and in the ditch by the roadside they found more potsherds.

They were not only light red Terra Sigillata but also black, late Celtic pottery known as Latene.

So Bonn is in reality older than 1994 and pre-Roman in origin. Before the Romans arrived there were the huts of a Celto-Germanic village of forerunners and fishermen.

To them we owe the name Bonn, which is likewise pre-Roman.

Uli Franz
(Köln: Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 April 1983)

Continued from page 9

technical and economic problems for solar energy.

Solar power units, he says, generate power during the daytime and in summer when the demand is limited. So power needs to be stored.

This is technically feasible, but it's also expensive. Yet storage is the only way in which power station capacity can be reduced.

Having invested DM150m in solar energy research and development, the Bonn Research Ministry now plans to wait and see what findings the AEG coffers come up with.

Jürgen Schäfer, the scientist in charge of solar energy research at the Ecologi-

cal Research Institute, in Freiburg, is all in favour of the Ministry's wait-and-see attitude.

Exaggerated financial backing, he says, more or less obliges scientists to achieve results, whereas technological development takes time.

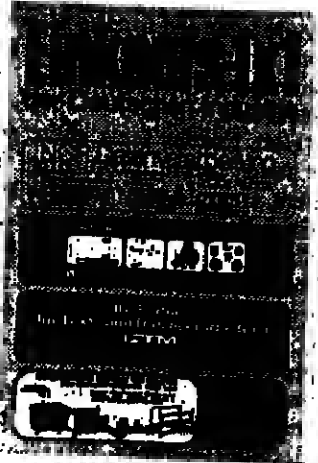
In his view solar energy has yet to reach the stage at which it can be used to any great extent.

"What matters at present is mainly to save energy," Schäfer says.

In the long term, he is convinced, it will come into its own. But that will not be until technical problems have been solved in a manner that is satisfactory from the economic viewpoint too.

Martin Kessler
(Freiburg, 21 April 1983)

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■ THE MEDIA

'Faint-hearted' German TV criticised over nuclear-accident film

The *Prix Futura* is held every two years with the aim of providing a forum for new ideas in radio and television. The competition, organised by German TV and radio organisations, is open to entrants anywhere in the world.

Most public interest at the 8th *Prix Futura* in Berlin was to a TV film that has received the cold shoulder from German television.

Im Zeichen des Kreuzes (Under the Sign of the Cross) tells about an imaginary nuclear accident in a small village in Lower Saxony.

The question is why the German first television channel (ARD) will not use the film. Instead it is to be used only on some third channel programmes, which are generally more high-brow and therefore less popular.

Foreigners at the festival were mystified. Was this censorship? The film, produced by Rainer Boldt and Hans-Rüdiger Mlinow, was in fact not part of the competition.

It was shown separately and the showing was followed by a discussion. The reaction by producers and editors from all parts of the world was much the same: why was German television being so faint-hearted?

There was some strong and well-founded criticism of the film: It was long-winded; there was too much action; it had too much trivia; and the characters and events lacked shades of good and evil.

Despite this, few doubted that it was worth showing to a large audience. The documentary judging panel gave a judgment despite the unofficial nature of the film. They said it was an important contribution and a warning about dangers of nuclear power. There must be no taboos for such a production.

The question is, will the ARD have the gumption to present the film at the next *Prix Futura* in two years time (assuming it has been broadcast before then)?

It is an ironic highlight of the polarised media discussion of today that it was the British commercial Yorkshire TV that presented a courageous production called *Alice — a fight for life*.

Its chances of being shown in Germany are slim, because it is vitriol to both politicians and industrialists.

No punches pulled

The film pulls no punches. It openly and accusingly documents cases of workers in the asbestos industry who face death from cancer as a result of inhaling the dust.

This is TV journalism at its best, a journalism that uses the particular clout of investigative reporting to disprove official statements.

The victims get plenty of opportunity to air their views. But this is done discreetly.

Justifiably, this production, with its immediate political impact, was awarded a *Prix Futura* prize for TV documentaries. Producer-director John Willis said that the asbestos industry tried to

block the film before it was broadcast. But Yorkshire TV had courageously stuck to its guns.

The Swedish entry that was completed after four years of work, *The Miracle of Life*, was just outstanding. In a breathtaking sequence of true life shots, the film shows how human life comes about (directors: Carl Löfmann and Bo Erikson).

The film uses newly developed technical possibilities (medical photography: Lennart Nilsson). What was particularly impressive here was the lack of pathos and the descriptive language.

Much of the other 46 entries in the documentary section were well meant and dealt with important topics — nature, ecology, human relations and technical progress — but were unconvincing, presenting little in the way of new interpretations or analysis.

The section TV Plays was also disappointing. There were a few ill-conceived psycho-trips and some ambitious searching for the mysterious and eerie (from Austria, Italy and France's Second Channel). The language of the photography was superficial.

A BBC entry dealing with unemployment, a most important issue today, failed to use to opportunities the subject presented.

In this section, too, the public probably agreed with the panel's decision to award prizes to the French and the Polish entries.

Deutsche Welle (The Voice of Germany) celebrated its 30th anniversary this month as a German station that is better known in the remotest corners of the world than at home.

Deutsche Welle's regular short-wave broadcasts began on 3 May 1953 as a community programme of Germany's broadcasting networks.

It was not until 1960 it became a station in its own right when the Bundesrat in the Adenauer era passed a bill to establish radio stations under federal law.

This was not only the hour of birth of Deutsche Welle as an independent station but also of Deutschlandfunk.

Both are housed near each other on the outskirts of Cologne.

Deutschlandfunk's aim is to present a programme for Germany. Its director-general, Richard Becker, says, it is "to help perpetuate the awareness that the Germans on both sides of the border are one nation, despite ideological, political and social differences."

Naturally, Deutschlandfunk is more than just a radio station for the other Germany. Its medium and long-wave programmes are broadcast in 14 European languages, apart from German.

Deutsche Welle has 93 programmes in German and 33 other languages. It broadcasts round the clock. It is meant to "present a comprehensive picture of political, economic and cultural life in Germany."

The broadcasts go via satellite to Deutsche Welle relay stations in Kigali, Central Africa, Sri Lanka and Antigua, in the West Indies.

Listeners can be on expeditions in the Himalayas; nomads in Outer Mongo-

The French entry that got the prize (TF1) was the original but somewhat formalised story of the curator of a museum of country life in the 19th century. The curator cannot understand why the fine end tasty tomatoes he grows annoy the government market strategists so much that they launch a major offensive against him (*The Obstinate Gardener*, by Jean Claude Carrière and Maurice Failevic).

The other prize went to the unusual Polish TV play *Star Dust*. The film (author and director: Andrzej Kondratiuk) relates the story of an old couple leading an inventors' and philosophers' life far off the beaten track of our technical civilisation — a life full of deeply scintillating thoughts and dialogues.

High standard

These are two gently radical films that rather poetically lampoon the efficiency and industriousness of our society to show that the possibility of a future world living is still open to us.

The jury for radio plays that this time selected its favourites by an intricate points system was satisfied with the entries and praised their generally high standard.

One of the prizes went to Hessischer Rundfunk for its *Oliver* (author: Werner Koller; director: Horst H. Vollmer).

Deutsche Welle wins lots of friends in faraway places



NURNBERGER

lie; or villagers in Papua New Guinea. Programming is extremely complicated because of the differences in the target groups: some listeners live in democratic countries, others in dictatorships; some are educated, others are illiterate; some live in strongly religious countries, others have had next to no brush with Western civilisation.

So what is this "picture of Germany" that Deutsche Welle tries to convey? Lothar Schwartz, one of the top assistants of Deutsche Welle Director-General Klaus Schütz: "That varies from one language and cultural region to another."

Programmes in Hindi are different from those in Urdu, just as Hausa broadcasts differ from those in Amharic. And listeners to Swahili broadcasts get a different programme from those listening in on the Pashto programme.

It is impossible to establish the exact number of Deutsche Welle listeners. But the 350,000 items of listeners' mail received every year speak for themselves.

Deutsche Welle has been uninvolved in the "political tug-of-war between the parties over the media" (Lothar Schwartz) because it is rarely listened to

Here, the jury praised which the career of a child luted in a radio-phenic ble criticism and satire.

The other prize went to *Supersaver* that dealt with a mer society that leaves its members alone in the Jungel ehondisa.

Most of the entries in the mentary sector dealt directly within eneley and the dition dition environment, orienting vex by pulphic individual as René Forobet of Radio France in his closing assessment.

Lifo was also presented as an "environment into which dives." Here, the radio comes on avant gardist laun "tracks of everyday life."

The jury praised the *Ein treuer Diener seines Herrn* (a master's faithful servant). This production is a joint social motivation and the identity of a man end his servant.

The Danish entry, *A Strøm*, describes the conflict between Turkish immigrants and new environment.

The jury described both "impressive radiophonic reality produced with great

All the available prizes in the sectors were awarded. None of the peace movement camp and is rors had any reason to be con- sidered — something that Franca Magnani, a first time cause of the possibility of the

There was no claim that ment was badly wrong.

Live Kamera (Frankfurter Rundschau)

MEDICINE

Doctors disagree over what sort of anti-nuclear war stance to adopt



ultimate aim was to prevent not only a nuclear war but any kind of war.

Begemann urged the medical profession not to make any misleading offers of help, saying that this would pave the road to disaster.

He stressed the need to fully inform the public about the consequences of nuclear war and the impossibility of help from the medical profession. The same demand was put forward by the world federation of doctors in 1981 and by the German Medical Association last year.

Begemann said that the congress was open to a variety of different views because medical initiatives could only be understood as part of a greater movement aimed at bringing about a reorientation of man within his environment.

The congress repeatedly reverted to the social criticism that has been put forward by various alternative groups.

But the actual focal point of the discussion was medical assistance that, as was suggested at the congress, must not permit itself to be perverted and downgraded.

Theologian Ute Ranke-Helmenann pointed to the long-established Christian tradition of combining serving the sick and serving under arms.

Doctors in all parts of the world are conducting an information campaign on the consequences of a nuclear war. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), which was founded in 1980, are emerging in many countries.

The German branch of IPPNW, has a membership of some 5,000. It does not see itself as part of the International movement and wants to steer a middle course between the United States and Britain, the two main powers in the "last scourge," nuclear war.

has been successful enough to rally the medical profession in its official associations.

Not so in the Federal Republic of Germany where most doctors have remained aloof from the campaign. There have been scattered clashes between writers and critics.

The 3rd Medical Congress on the Prevention of Nuclear War in Munich showed that the original medical movement in this country has been pushed

Increasingly being dominated by the peace movement camp and is rors had any reason to be con- sidered — something that Franca Magnani, a first time cause of the possibility of the

The theme of the congress, which was held in a major Munich beer hall, the Wasserwerk, was "We Won't Be Able to Help You."

The opening address by the Munich Minister Herbert Begemann drove it home to the 3,000 participants that the

The Zoological Institute of Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, is set to unravel the mysteries of memory.

In the late 1960s, the world was startled by reports that American scientists had proved in animal experiments

that there was such a thing as memory molecules and that these molecules could be transplanted like kidneys or other organs.

New visions reminiscent of Frankenstein's boldest wishes opened up.

But it proved impossible to repeat the experiments. Today nobody believes that memory molecules can be transplanted.

In our day-to-day lives, we take the memory of things long past for granted. People who find themselves unable to remember a telephone number from

moment to the next tend to complain about their "memory being like a blackboard."

Sometimes we are awed by memory like the last century's Cardinal Mezzanin, the head of the Vatican Library, who was said to have spoken more than 100 languages fluently.

We tend to be equally awed by people like the writer Arno Schmidt (he died in 1979) who as a young man earned himself money by appearing as a memory artist in pubs, reciting off

names and numbers from the telephone directory.

The question is: how is it possible that we can today repeat a sentence we heard yesterday?

The enormous progress made in the fields of electron microscopy, molecular biology and biochemistry has also bene-

dicted brain research.

It had long been suspected that infor-

The brain: trying to unlock the secrets of memory

motion absorbed by our memory does not freely float around in the brain but has a specific material place in it.

This is substantiated by such common phrases as "this is etched in my memory."

Animal experiments by the zoologist and memory researcher Professor Hinrich Rahmann of Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, over the past ten years show that such sayings can almost be taken literally.

Professor Rahmann and his team exposed goldfish to certain light sensations and stimulated electric fish with electric shocks to trigger learning and memory processes.

While the experiments lasted, the fish's brains showed a clear change in their structure and a concentration of a specific type of brain substance, ganglioside.

The Stuttgart-Hohenheim researchers believe to have found the substance in which memory literally etches itself, leaving a clear impression: the so-called angram.

Professor Rahmann speaks of a "molecular memory trace," comparing this with vehicle or ski tracks in open country.

Professor Rahmann: "Information constantly circles in the form of nervous impulses, following specific unchangeable tracks in the network of nerve cells."

She suggested that arming for medical help in war had always been — wittingly or unwittingly — arming for war itself.

Christians, she said, had always found ways of availing the fact that their noble and foremost duty of helping the wounded and dying was superseded by the duty to prevent wounds and death in the first place. In the nuclear age, the long practised Christian division of labour in terms of wounding and bandaging must come to an end.

Even top ranking members of the medical profession and the military (as for instance the former inspector of the Bundeswehr medical service, Dr Reben-tisch) now openly say that modern weapons of mass destruction make any form of help illusory in a war.

But even so, Doctors Till Baatjan, of Hildesheim, and Knut Sroka, of Hamburg, told the meeting, medicine is still rehearsing for disaster.

The medical profession, they said, had entered into an alliance with those in power and this alliance must be broken through civil disobedience.

The war games in which doctors have to engage on orders from the authorities only serve to get the public used to the idea that nuclear wars can be waged, Boston suggested.

As Sroka, the spokesman for the German branch of IPPNW, sees it, disaster medicine ultimately boils down to offensive preparation for war. Together with civil defence, it is meant to create the illusion of protection and help in

case of a nuclear war, he told the meeting.

He said the destruction of this illusion was one of the most important contributions by the doctors' Initiative to the peace movement, saying that this was not a bad instrument with which to counter the deployment of new nuclear missiles.

By refusing to train in disaster medicine, doctors should demonstrate that they were not prepared to permit themselves to be abused as a "dehumanised police force" in a nuclear war, he said.

Doctors at the congress were urged to withhold their medical association dues for as long as the association persisted in war policy.

For Sroka, disaster medicine is identical with war medicine and dominated by the inhuman trade principle.

Triage, he said, provided aid for the less severely wounded, leaving the others to their fate.

Even speaking of "civilian" disaster medicine did not disprove this principle. Such labels were no more than a ruse for which the medical profession must not fall, he said.

The final resolution passed summed up the findings of the congress: no medical assistance was possible in a modern war — especially a nuclear war.

All laws and civil defence and disaster medicine exercises served only to promote the illusion of help and protection.

The medical profession must not regard war as an inevitable disease that it was able and called upon to cure. War was a crime perpetrated by people and doctors must help to prevent this crime.

Finally, the resolution called on the entire medical profession to use civil disobedience if the new missiles were deployed.

Rainer Fißli

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 April 1983)

processes in the brain are discontinued. When the body temperature of the opos was raised to normal again and the electrical processes in the brain resumed, they still remembered what they had learned before.

This would have been impossible had their memory been solely dependent on electrical brain waves. This suggested that a specific brain substance also played a role in the process.

The American experiments suggested that memory was stored in brain molecules. This was substantiated by an experiment in which the American researchers used rats trained to be afraid of the dark and then transplanted sections of their brains to normal and unafraid rats.

The normal rats suddenly became frightened of the dark. But it subsequently proved impossible to repeat the American experiments elsewhere.

Just as well. Knowledge transplants by scalp.

The Hohenheim model does not discard the molecule idea but uses it as the "snow in which the skis of memory can leave their tracks." But it is we who have to think and make the tracks.

Professor Rahmann, counselling mental indolence: "Being under-taxed intellectually is a frequent cause of mental atrophy. By the same token, constant intellectual exercise prevents the premature decline of mental faculties."

But what's so new about it? That's what our teachers at school used to tell us.

Hans Joachim Schyle

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 16 April 1983)

■ MODERN LIVING

Technological changes mean injuries at work are harder to define

Industrial safety provision in Germany are a total failure, says trade unionist Reinhold Konstanty.

Industrial safety provisions in Germany are most effective and are held in high repute in other countries, says Hans-Jürgen Bieneck of the Bonn Labour Ministry.

Both men were addressing a conference of the Protestant Church Academy in Loccum, near Hanover, which was attended by specialists in labour medicine, sociologists and trade unionists.

Employers were not represented. Nor were the compulsory work insurance schemes.

The theme was the changing nature of work and, therefore, the changing nature of work-related illness.

Technological progress means that strain on nerves, mind and soul is increasingly replacing wear and tear on bone and muscle.

It is clear that list of industrial disabilities can no longer be considered an accurate yardstick of strains and stresses in the working world.

The number of industrial injuries reported has steadily declined, from 2.3 million in 1960 to 1.2 million in 1982.

But work-related illnesses over the same period have increased from 31,500 to 33,500 per annum.

This is partly due to deafness having been fully acknowledged in the mid-1970s to be what the French call a *déformation professionnelle*.

These figures are satisfactory. But the alarming factor is the dramatic increase in the number of people who have been awarded an early pension because of industrial disability.

Last year 48 per cent of pensions newly awarded to men and 53 per cent of pensions to women were awarded ahead of normal retirement age on grounds of work-related disability.

Not every invalid is unable to work because of work-related ailments, of course, but the increase in the number of disability pensions awarded is unquestionably work-related to some extent.

No yardstick

It is a clear indication that the official catalogue of industrial disabilities cannot be regarded as a yardstick of the strain and stress of the working world.

Experts and politicians have accordingly taken to referring to work-related illnesses. In individual instances they are clearly identifiable, but statistically they are extremely difficult to encompass.

Take the case of a warehouse reported by one specialist in labour medicine where a constant draught was created by the coming and going of fork-lift trucks.

Every summer the warehouse staff suffered an above-average number of illnesses of the upper respiratory organs. They were clearly due to working conditions.

The same may be true, although research has to prove the point, in respect of findings by health insurance schemes



with regard to specific trades and industries.

Complaints of the liver are unusually frequent among iron and steel workers, of the respiratory organs among chemical workers, of intestinal disorders in the engineering industry and of neuroses in textiles.

It would be more difficult, even in the individual instance, to establish a link between constant irritation at work and a stomach ulcer.

So the concept of work-related illness is extremely vague, even in official statistical use, because to an alarmingly large extent the cause of a complaint can only tentatively be established.

Inferences may be drawn and assumptions reached, but they are not hard facts. Nor are the findings of opinion polls in which people are asked how they feel at work.

Mention was made, at a conference on safety at work held at the Hanover Fair, of the white-collar worker who sits all day at a computer display screen and watches TV all evening.

In his case, it was noted, it would be hard to say whether poor vision and

bad legs were due to work or leisure, and uncertainty of this kind leads to a wide range of interpretations.

Views voiced at Loccum ranged from experts who claimed that working conditions could only be changed by means of a wide range of medical checks to demands for workers to be given a greater say in their work.

Doctors, it was said, really ought to ask their patients what conditions were like at work, both generally and for them in particular.

Medical councils ought also to give the profession a much more thorough grounding in working conditions and wear and tear today.

Much time for discussion at Loccum was taken up by the time-honoured debate on whether more legislation or stricter enforcement of existing legislation was needed, especially in view of the cost.

As a result, other fundamental issues were sadly neglected. Surprisingly little mention was made of data protection, for instance.

Long-term observation and surveillance of staff are known to be the only way of finding out for sure the physical and chemical effect of working conditions and work schedules.

Such statistics are needed for research and by health insurance

One disadvantage to early retirement: it can kill

Bonn University psychologists have spent over 17 years keeping an eye on 220 old people to find out how to reach a ripe old age and stay healthy in body and mind.

Professor Ursula Lehr says it is work that keeps many people young. She is strongly against retirement at 60 or 55 as a means of reducing unemployment.

Because work is such a stimulus she favours allowing anyone who wants to carry on working after reaching retirement age to do so.

The Bonn survey disproves once and for all the old adage that work is a killer. Work began when Adam and Eve were banished from Paradise, according to the Old Testament.

But is it a blessing or a curse? Professor Lehr's findings indicate that it is more likely to be a godsend.

"The greater a person's physical, mental and social activity, the more likely he or she is to reach a ripe old age in good health. Work longer and you will live longer."

Work not only earns a living; it also gives us the feeling of being needed and not belonging on the scrap heap. It establishes contacts and enables us to exchange ideas with others.

Early retirement, the Bonn gerontologist argues, can be a curse for most people. The existing pensionable age can be a problem for many.

"A fair number of people grow ill on retirement, which can even be a killer: loneliness and boredom can prove fatal."

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Professor Lehr has taken a closer look of polls which are claimed to prove that most people keenly look forward to retirement.

"The more remote a prospect retirement is, the more enthusiastic people are about it. But once retired, people soon realise that sleep, travel and hobbies are not enough. Many pensioners are desperately keen to find work."

Many of today's 60-year-olds were not taught as young people how to handle leisure. Thirty-year-olds should have less trouble.

Professor Lehr is convinced the way retirement is handled is totally wrong: "It is a tough change to switch from work to retirement from one day to the next. Flexible change-over and a gradual adjustment are preferable."

"Let people first work six or four hours a day, or four days a week, and they will have time to get accustomed to the idea."

The Bonn survey revealed that there were 65-year-olds whose behaviour and performance were those of 40-year-olds and 30-year-olds who behaved like 70-year-olds.

"Calendar age proves little. That is why everyone ought to be able to decide for themselves when to retire."

"There are sure to be people who would be happy to retire at 55; I can

schemes. But how is one to tell if they do not get into the wrong? Surely that would have been mentioned.

Another point that might be made in greater length was the need for a free choice of doctor or sector.

Works doctors seem to restrict activities to an unconscionable giving newcomers to a company only checks.

A further aspect that was mentioned was the success of a wide range of medical checks of the worker's right to know the results of these checks.

It was disconcerting to hear that in disregard for the crucial importance of health precautions, the individual can be left to his or her well-being.

Ambition danger

This can mean choosing the sign of desk and chair. It can mean learning to put breaks to work. Everyone is capable of relating something else during a break.

People must also realise that their personal ambition, dissatisfaction and constant clashes with management can be more dangerous than a monotonous job.

Reducing health risks at work never be restricted to technical and technocratic issues.

Reinhold Konstanty
Hannoversche Allgemeine

well imagine shift-workers in steelworks feeling this way."

But if people were compulsively stationed at 60 or 55 she feels they would look for a fresh job, making it need be.

"A 60-year-old today," she expects to live another 20 years. Twenty years spent doing are simply intolerable."

In early retirement seems to be a bid to create jobs for youngsters. Besides, it is doubtful whether the economy can afford to do with the knowledge and experience of 50- to 60-year-olds.

"Many firms would not like people to replace others retired," Professor Lehr claims. "They simply take the opportunity to down their payroll."

Besides, the cost of early retirement is anyone's guess, and: "I don't want to see a 60-year-old pensioned out. In Cologne a pensioner had to be sent to the scrap heap will tend to be a piece."

"What we save in unemployment benefit for the young we may end up spending on extra medical care for older people."

Early pensioners would need to be offered alternative work. In, say, the welfare sector.

"But the law as it stands does this out. In Cologne a pensioner had to work free of charge in the library, but his offer had to be turned down."

Professor Lehr is convinced the alternative to early retirement means of sharing less work among people is preferable.

The options include shorter days and weeks, more leave and a range of part-time work.

Horst Zimmermann
Stuttgarter Nachrichten

OUR WORLD

Directory inquiries gives out much more than just numbers



The directory inquiries service (118 in Berlin) provides much more than just phone numbers.

Children ask how to spell words. Teenagers ask about hotels that are too expensive.

Others call just to have a talk. Some are inarticulate old ladies. Others are arrogant tycoons. There may be the occasional spastic who has difficulty talking to an ordinary drunk.

And then there are the obscene callers. Irmgard Uckermann has been an operator with the Berlin service for 10

years and answers about 35 calls an hour. Often gets obscene calls. There are too many now that information calls are longer free. They now cost the same as other calls.

Uckermann takes off the earpiece when the obscenities begin. A voice is recognised, attempts are made to trace the call and bring in the police.

According to post office figures, the operating cost per information unit is DM2.50. This is amply made up by the charges for the subsequent telephone call to the number given.

The operation is still a long way from a system in France where the telephone

book can be called up on to the Inquirer's TV screen. So Irmgard Uckermann will have to continue to put up with being asked on Saturday evenings: "Do you know the football results?" Often, the operator does.

A major fire, for instance, brings many calls from people who want to know the telephone numbers of friends and acquaintances.

"Then everything goes haywire. The girls not only have to put up with the sheer volume of work but also with such rude remarks as 'Have you been busy making coffee again? Typical government service'."

The index card days are long over, the service now uses microfilms that store about 270 pages of a telephone directory on a single film strip. At each set a monitor screen displays the information.

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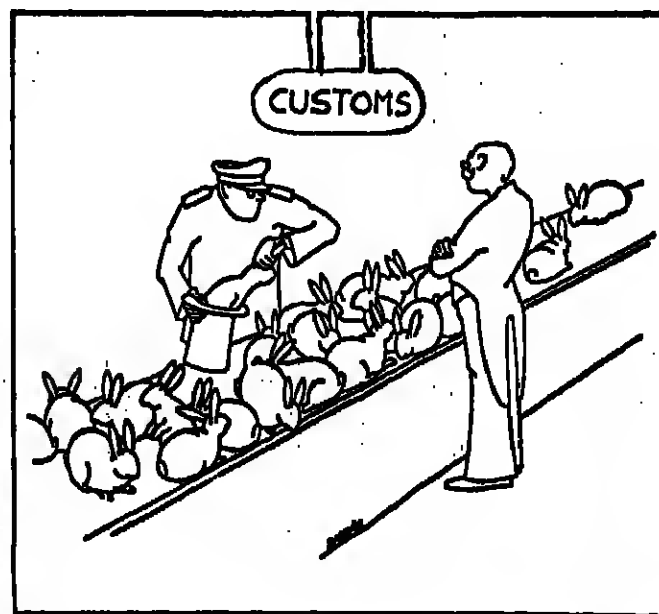
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(Der Tagesspiegel, 24 April 1983)

(Cartoon: Hans-Horst Bartsch/Süddeutsche Zeitung)

Customs officers learn to humour the angry traveller

Public complaints against customs officers have dropped off sharply since a special course in psychology was introduced, say the customs authorities.

The course aim is to reduce the number of holidaymakers who become irritated at customs checks, especially after waiting in long queues.

The curriculum puts a heavy emphasis on person-to-person contact. Officers are told self-assertion is a natural drive. Remember this, and give the other person a chance to save face.

When queues of cars at border checkpoints become several miles long and when jumbo jets disgorge hundreds of passengers, "It is only natural for travellers to be fuming by the time they reach the customs officer," says Hans-Dietrich Schatz, the head of the Customs Training Centre in Düsseldorf.

The psychology seminar on the treatment of travellers at border checkpoints has this piece of advice among others: "A business tycoon arriving at a border checkpoint with his secretary in tow often feels slighted when he is made to open his suitcase."

"So humour him by telling him that the check is not directed at him personally but is simply part of a customs officer's job."

Schatz: "If a customs officer doesn't understand this, he must be given some other job where he doesn't deal with the public."

Chief Customs Inspector Günnar Lopotz, who is in charge of the seminars, spent a week observing customs procedures at Germany's busiest charter airport, Düsseldorf.

He later said that many travellers had told him that they had more understanding for the customs officers' work since the Tabatabai affair (involving a high-ranking Iranian official who smuggled opium into this country).

Generally, customs officers have little sympathy for travellers who point to their personal importance.

An ex-state minister from southern Germany complained loudly because customs officers at Düsseldorf airport had asked him to open his bags. He maintained that they "should have known from his baggage and from his way of dressing that he was a man of standing."

Psychology teacher Lopotz is particularly insistent that his pupils should not let themselves smirk when catching

some innocuous traveller bringing in extra alcohol or a carton of two of cigarettes.

This type of smuggling has become a sort of sport and must be seen in that light, says Chief Inspector Lopotz: "If a light went on every time a vacationer off a jumbo jet passes the customs checks with smuggled goods, we could do away with the lighting in this airport."

dps
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 April 1983)

Pretty penny for a holiday copper

Hermann Voss, the founder of Germany's first house minding agency, in St. Peter-Ording, says there is a burglary every 22 seconds in Germany.

His business, which is based on a British idea, benefits from the public's fear of being burgled — and is thriving.

The service he provides is simple: Wealthy people pay for their home to be guarded during their holidays.

The guard, paid DM200 a week, is usually a retired policeman — Voss has found out that this is what his customers want.

The guard, frequently with wife and dog, makes himself at home. He waters the plants, feeds the aquarium fish, the guinea pig and the canary.

He might even help with redecorating work from which the home-owner has fled.

He is entitled to two heated rooms, but for the rest he has to put up with some restrictions. He may have visitors until 10 p.m. but parties are banned.

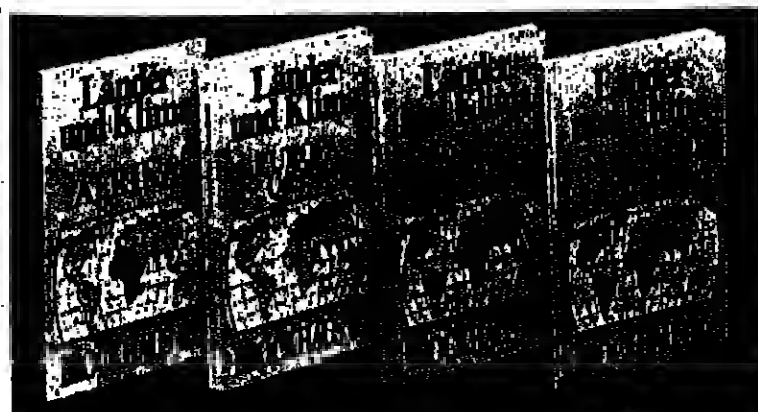
He may leave the house for three hours during daylight hours and for one hour at night. He has to be polite to the neighbours — no matter how unpleasant they may be.

If the owner returns and finds that his house through accident has been reduced to a smouldering ruin, he can relax — the agency has taken out insurance.

Hermann Voss' agency not only looks after property but also puts criminals in a fix: If his idea catches on burglars would have to steer clear of the homes of the rich and make do with the homes of retired policemen.

Ulrich Stock
(DZ 24, 22 April 1983)

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